Trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan

2221. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India's exports to Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan in 1994-95 amounted to Rs. 47.75 crore, imports therefrom stood at Rs. 38.8 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating Government's reaction to the Exim Bank's study report in this regard as reported in the Times of India dated 31st July, 1996; and

(c) whether Government propose to go for import of goods in raw material form with a view to re-exporting value added finished products from India as suggested by Exim Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details of India's exports to Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan and imports from there during 1994-95 are given below:—

(In Rs. Crore)

	Exports	Imports	Total
Kazakhastan	25.62	12.62	38.24
Uzbekistan	22.13	26.20	48.30

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) The Times of India dated 31st July, 1996 (published from Delhi) was consulted but no such report seems to have appeared. However, it needs to be mentioned that despite the major macro economic changes which have taken place in Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan, India has recorded a steady increase in trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan since 1993 details of which are given below:—

India's Exports

(In Rs. Crore)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Kazakhastan	8.47	25.62	29.9
Uzbekistan	4.7	22.13	23.03

India's Imports

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Kazakhastan	6.63	12.62	26.57
Uzbekistan	4.31	26.18	35.53

(Source : DGCI&S)

Thus it is seen that our trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan has shown a growth of 32% during the years 1995-96 as compared to the figures of 1994-95.

(c) Government of India encourages Indian exporters to promots trade with different countries including Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan by participating in trade/exhibitions/sending delegations, and holding Buyer-Seller Meets, The actual conduct of the business is negotiated by businessmen who are generally guided by the principle of price competitiveness.

Check on the Price

2222. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the period April—June 1996 there has been a spurt in the prices of some varieties of pulses, like Masoor, Arhar, Rice, Wheat, Maize, Khandsari, Tea and Oils, etc.;

(b) if so, the increase in the prices over the last quarter, percentage-wise;

(c) the reasons for the spurt in the prices; and